Information for patients

Use of routine data for the ‘OxMIV’ Study

When you are in contact with mental health services, a routine log of information is recorded in electronic medical notes. This might include important things about you and your care, summaries of discussions you have with your team, or copies of letters sent to you and your GP.

As well as being important for your treatment, this information might also help research projects that aim to improve care in the future.

To do this, researchers might sometimes need to access information without asking your permission. For this to happen, the project needs approval by a Research Ethics Committee – a panel of people (including lay members representing patients and the public) who are separate to the study. They make sure that it is in the public and patient interest, and that data is managed securely and made anonymous as soon as possible.

The ‘OxMIV’ study has been reviewed and approved by the London-Bromley NHS Research Ethics Committee, and by the Health Research Authority’s Confidentiality Advisory Group. It is developing better ways of predicting who might benefit from help to reduce physical aggression. The study will take information from previous assessment reports (such as about past history and treatment), and then see if police or mental health services have a record of that person behaving aggressively towards people in the year following assessment.

Although records will be looked up by name to get information, all identifiable data will be deleted once this is collected, and no new information is passed back to the clinical team.

If you do not want your data being used in this, or in any future similar studies, please simply let your team know, or email daniel.whiting@psych.ox.ac.uk. This will in no way affect your clinical care.